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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

By an act of the Congress approved August 14, 1912, the name of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service was changed to Public Health Service. The public-health functions and duties of the service were extended somewhat, and certain changes were made in the salaries of the officers. A copy of the act follows:

AN ACT To change the name of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service to the Public Health Service, to increase the pay of officers of said service, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States shall hereafter be known and designated as the Public Health Service, and all laws pertaining to the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States shall hereafter apply to the Public Health Service, and all regulations now in force, made in accordance with law for the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States shall apply to and remain in force as regulations of and for the Public Health Service until changed or rescinded. The Public Health Service may study and investigate the diseases of man and conditions influencing the propagation and spread thereof, including sanitation and sewage and the pollution either directly or indirectly of the navigable streams and lakes of the United States, and it may from time to time issue information in the form of publications for the use of the public.*

SEC. 2. That beginning with the first day of October next after the passage of this act the salaries of the commissioned medical officers of the Public Health Service shall be at the following rates per annum: Surgeon General, six thousand dollars; Assistant Surgeon General, four thousand dollars; senior surgeon, of which there shall be ten in number, on active duty, three thousand five hundred dollars; surgeon, three thousand dollars; passed assistant surgeon, two thousand four hundred dollars; assistant surgeon, two thousand dollars; and the said officers, excepting the Surgeon General, shall receive an additional compensation of ten per centum of the annual salary as above set forth for each five years' service, but not to exceed in all forty per centum: *Provided*, That the total salary, including the longevity increase, shall not exceed the following rates: Assistant Surgeon General, five thousand dollars; senior surgeon, four thousand five hundred dollars; surgeon, four thousand dollars: *Provided further*, That there may be employed in the Public Health Service such help as may be provided for from time to time by Congress.

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## THE POST-MORTEM DIAGNOSIS OF PLAGUE.

By RUPERT BLUE, Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service.

The following notes have been prepared and are issued for the use of medical officers, private practitioners, coroners, and others concerned in the examination of the dead:

One of the chief causes of the spread of plague and of its continuance in localities which it has invaded is the failure to recognize and